

Message Text

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63

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S E C R E T STATE 222140

EXDIS, TOSEC 342, TOECO 16, ZFF PEKING ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, JA

SUBJ: GOJ ATTITUDE TOWARD ARAB PRESSURES

REF: TOKYO 14575, 14576

OECD PARIS FOR UNDER SECRETARY CASEY

BEIRUT FOR ASST. SECRETARY SISCO

1. SUMMARY. JAPANESE CALLED ON DAVIES (NEA) NOV. 8
TO EXPLAIN GOJ POSITION IN FACE ARAB OIL PRODUCTION CUT-
BACKS. AFTER INQUIRING ABOUT STATE OF SECRETARY'S CURRENT
SECRET

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NEGOTIATIONS IN MIDDLE EAST AND EXPRESSING PLEASURE OVER
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING CEASEFIRE, JAPANESE SAID
INCREASING SHORTFALL OF PETROLEUM SUPPLIES CONFRONTING
GOJ WITH DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DILEMMA. AS

RESULT, IT HAD FORCED CONSIDERATION OF PLAN TO "CLARIFY" JAPAN'S TRADITIONAL SUPPORT OF UNSC RESOLUTION 242 THROUGH ANNOUNCEMENT OF CERTAIN PRO-ARAB INTERPRETATIONS REGARDING OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, WITHDRAWAL, AREA SECURITY, AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. WHILE EXPRESSING USG AWARENESS OF JAPAN'S DILEMMA AND OUR APPRECIATION FOR FIRMNESS SHOWN TO DATE IN RESISTING PRESSURE TO FOLD BEFORE ARAB DEMANDS, DAVIES STRESSED USG'S CONVICTION THAT BOTH U.S. AND JAPANESE LONG-TERM INTERESTS BEST SERVED BY GOJ'S CONTINUING TO HOLD FIRM. DAVIES STRONGLY URGED THAT NO GOJ "CLARIFICATIONS" RE RESOLUTION 242 BE MADE AT THIS CRITICAL TIME--PARTICULARLY BEFORE SECRETARY HAS OPPORTUNITY NEXT WEEK PERSONALLY TO APPRISE JAPANESE OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING BOTH GENERAL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND PROSPECTS FOR DE-POLITICIZING OIL. END SUMMARY.

2. TOSHIO YAMAZAKI, MINISTER AT JAPANESE EMBASSY HERE AND HISASHI OWADA, FOREIGN MINISTRY UN/P DIVISION CHIEF ON TDY WITH JAPAN'S UN DELEGATION, CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT

SECRETARY DAVIES (NEA) AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 8 AND PRESENTED DETAILED EXPLANATION GOJ POSITION IN FACE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DILEMMA CAUSED BY ARAB OIL EMBARGO.

3. YAMAZAKI FIRST ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION NEWS REPORTS JUST RECEIVED THAT ISRAEL HAD AGREED TO SHORT-RANGE PLAN STEMMING FROM SECRETARY'S NEGOTIATIONS IN CAIRO. DAVIES EXPLAINED THAT, ALTHOUGH SUBSTANCE OF ANY PLAN NOT YET AVAILABLE TO HIM, IT APPEARED SADAT-KISSINGER TALKS GENERATED IDEAS WHICH COULD BOTH STABILIZE CEASEFIRE AND CREATE MODALITIES FOR REACHING LONGER RANGE SETTLEMENT. DAVIES SAID THAT FOLLOWING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO'S TRIP TO ISRAEL, INDICATIONS WERE POINTING TOWARDS CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS ON QUESTIONS SUCH AS (1) THIRD ARMY RESUPPLY WITH NONMILITARY ESSENTIALS, (2) POW EXCHANGE, AND (3) "OTHER ASPECTS OF CEASEFIRE." DAVIES ASSURED JAPANESE OF FULLER DETAILS AS SOON AS WE HAD MORE INFORMATION AND SECRET

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AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE IT. YAMAZAKI NOTED HIS AMBASSADOR (YASUKAWA) HAS SCHEDULED MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH NOVEMBER 9, AND HE HOPED DETAILS WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME. YASUKAWA LEAVES FOR JAPAN NOVEMBER 11 TO BE PRESENT FOR SECRETARY'S TOKYO STOP. YAMAZAKI NOTED THERE FORTUNATELY NOW SEEMED TO BE PROGRESS IN MIDDLE EAST, AND HE OFFERED CONGRATULATIONS TO USG FOR HELPING ACHIEVE THIS. DAVIES SAID BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE GREAT DEAL AT STAKE IN ME. USG AWARE OF PRESSURE BEING EXERTED ON JAPAN BY ARABS AND GREATLY APPRECIATES STAND ON PRINCIPLE WHICH JAPAN HAS HELD IN FACE OF THIS PRESSURE.

4. YAMAZAKI THEN STRESSED THAT CONTINUATION OF CURRENT OIL

SUPPLY SITUATION COULD BE DISASTROUS FOR JAPAN. BEFORE ME WAR JAPAN GOT FROM OAPEC COUNTRIES 43 PERCENT OR 1.8 OUT OF ITS TOTAL 4.5 MILLION BARREL/DAY IMPORT REQUIREMENT. OWADA SAID JAPAN NOW HAS RESERVES FOR ONLY 60 DAYS AND HAS BEEN BADLY HIT BY ARAB PRODUCTION CUTS. IF THESE ARE MAINTAINED, COUNTRY WILL FACE IMPOSSIBLE TASK OF HAVING TO TRY AND MAKE DO EXTENDED PERIOD WITH FROM 30 TO 40 PERCENT LESS OIL. OWADA ALSO EXPRESSED GOJ CONCERN THAT MAJOR US-OWNED OIL COMPANIES MIGHT START DIVERTING TO U.S. OIL THAT WOULD NORMALLY HAVE GONE TO JAPAN, AND HE SAID COMPANIES SHOULD EASE SITUATION BY ASSURING BALANCED SUPPLIES TO ALL CONSUMERS. AT PRESENT RATE, HE ADDED, "WE CAN NOT KEEP PACE"; JAPAN BEING HURT JAPANESE INDUSTRY AND PEOPLE ARE PRESSURING GOVERNMENT TO EASE SITUATION BY YIELDING TO ARAB VIEWPOINT. OWADA NOTED THAT, WHEREAS UK AND FRANCE WERE CONSIDERED "FRIENDLY" COUNTRIES FOR PURPOSES ARAB EMBARGO, JAPAN WAS NOT. HE SOUGHT INFORMATION ON SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH SAUDIS. DAVIES SAID WE HAD NOTHING YET SINCE THESE DISCUSSIONS TO BEGIN MOMENTARILY AND NOTED DIFFICULTY CONFRONTING U.S. WHEN IT WAS ASKED

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